



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

OCT 2 2002

Mr. Les Adolph
American Airlines
3900 North Mango Road
P.O. Box 582809 MD 517
Tulsa, OK 74116

Ref. No.: 02-0152

Dear Mr. Adolph:

This is in response to your May 30, 2002 letter inquiring whether you are required to check each UN2910 or UN2911 radioactive material shipment under § 173.424(d) of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180). You state that the shipments consist of radioactive articles, such as exit signs, fuel flow emitters and smoke detectors and that you have their radioactive readings from the manufacturers.

Section 173.424(d) states, in part, that a radioactive instrument or article and its packaging is excepted from the specification packaging, shipping paper and certification, marking and labeling requirements if:

The radiation level at 10 cm (4 in) from any point on the external surface of any unpackaged instrument or article does not exceed 0.1 mSv/hour (10 mrem/hour).

The HMR specify the radiation level limits that must be achieved but do not state how to ascertain whether the levels are within the acceptable limits. Therefore, you may use any methods or means you deem appropriate to assure that your UN2910 or UN2911 radioactive material shipments do not exceed the limits specified in § 173.424(d), including the usage of radioactive information received from the articles' manufacturers. However, caution should be exercised when manufacturer's data is used to assess instruments or articles which are not new due to their potential for damage.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Hattie L. Mitchell
Chief, Regulatory Review and Reinvention
Office of Hazardous Materials Standards



020152

173.424(d)

Betts, Charles

Betts
§ 173.424 (d)
Packages RAM
02-0152

From: Mazzullo, Ed
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2002 9:37 AM
To: Gale, John; Betts, Charles
Subject: FW: Clarification question

Please develop a response. Looks like we totally except these materials. Are they treated differently under ICAO?

-----Original Message-----

From: Les Adolph [mailto:Les.Adolph@aa.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2002 9:17 AM
To: Mazzullo, Ed <RSPA>
Subject: Clarification question

Ed, I've had some discussions with Frits and Duane Pfund, when Duane was in Tulsa for the ATA COMAT meeting on whether we needed to check each radioactive material shipment under UN2910 and 2911 as detailed in 173.424 (d)? I have an email from Frits that I could produce if we were ever questioned by the FAA but I would not want to put Frits in any sort of negative spot. (I value all of the friendships and relationships I have with all of you!!) We have the radioactive readings from the Manufacturer for these units and as Frits indicated to me, the radiation would get weaker rather than stronger... These items would be like the exit signs, some fuel flow emitters, some of the instrumentation and the smoke detectors, so as you can see, all are very low level items... What do you think, do I need to request a formal clarification or do you think we can just assume everyone knows that we are doing the right thing in compliance with the regs?? I hate too keep bothering you all but it seems like recently if I think there is a chance of it happening, the FAA keeps coming thru for me!! Ha!!!

Best regards,
Les

Use this

Betts, Charles

From: Les Adolph [Les.Adolph@aa.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2002 9:42 AM
To: Betts, Charles <RSPA>
Subject: Re: Letter of Clarificaton

Charles, my request if for the shipment of spares, both servicable and unservicable, but when I refer to unservicable, they are not damaged, the majority of what we ship is lavatory smoke detectors, and the exit signs in the cabin.. if this is not all the info you need, please get back with me.

Thanks,
Les

>>> "Charles Betts" <Charles.Betts@RSPA.dot.gov> 08/07/02 08:34AM >>>
Mr. Adolph,

I am currently working on your request for a letter of clarification regarding radioactive material shipment under UN2910 and UN2911 as described in § 173.424(d). However, after reading your e-mail request, I am unclear whether it concerns "shipments onboard the aircraft" or "devices installed/used onboard the aircraft." Could you please help to clarify this for me?

Regards,
Charles.....